United Nations A/59/612

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 December 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda items 35 and 56 (c)

Culture of peace

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of South-East Asian Nations

Letter dated 14 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour on behalf of the member countries of the Association of the South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, to inform you that the tenth ASEAN summit and its related summit meetings were held on 29 and 30 November 2004, in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic.

At the tenth ASEAN summit, ASEAN leaders signed the Vientiane Action Programme, a six-year plan, which is the successor of the Hanoi Plan of Action, to realize the end goal of the ASEAN Vision 2020 and the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II. The Vientiane Action Programme focuses on deepening regional integration and narrowing development gaps within ASEAN, in particular the least developed member countries.

In that connection, ASEAN leaders agreed to establish an ASEAN Development Fund to support the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme and future action programmes. To that end, they called on their Dialogue Partners, other countries and regional and international organizations to support the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (see http://www.aseansec.org/).

I have the further honour to submit a copy of the press statement issued by the Chairman of the tenth ASEAN summit and its related summit meetings on 30 November 2004 (see annex). I would like to kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as documents of the General Assembly under the agenda

04-65001 (E) 211204

items entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of South-East Asian Nations" and "Culture of peace".

(*Signed*) Alounkeo **Kittikhoun**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chairman of the ASEAN New York Committee

Annex to the letter dated 14 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Chairman's Press Statement

10th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits
Vientiane, 29-30 November 2004

1. The 10th ASEAN Summit, ASEAN+3 (China, Japan and Republic of Korea), ASEAN+China, ASEAN+Japan, ASEAN+ROK, ASEAN+India Summits, and ASEAN-Australia and New Zealand Commemorative Summit were held on 29-30 November 2004 in Vientiane under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Bounnhang VORACHITH, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR. The ASEAN Leaders and the Leaders of their Dialogue Partners attending these Summits jointly signed or adopted 32 important documents.

2. The Heads of States and Government of ASEAN, China, Japan, ROK, India, and Australia and New Zealand attended the above mentioned relevant Summits.

I. The 10th ASEAN Summit

3. At this Summit, the ASEAN Leaders exchanged views on regional and international political and economic issues, including:

(1) Terrorism

The ASEAN Leaders strongly condemned the recent terrorist acts and reaffirmed their unwavering determination to strengthen their cooperation to mitigate the adverse impact of such attacks on ASEAN countries, and urged the international community to support and assist ASEAN in this effort.

(2) Korean Peninsular

The ASEAN Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a peaceful and comprehensive solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsular, and agreed that there is a need to continue the discussions to promote mutual confidence and find a common approach to the issue. In this connection, the ASEAN Leaders called on all parties concerned to reconvene the Six-Party Talks at the earliest possibility.

(3) Middle East

The ASEAN Leaders expressed their concern over the violent situation in the Middle East and called for the creation of an independent Palestinian State living side by side with Israel within secure and internationally recognized borders that will bring about lasting peace in the Middle East.

(4) Iraq

The ASEAN Leaders expressed their concern over the grave situation in Iraq and called for the holding of an election as scheduled, and reaffirmed their position that the United Nations must continue to play a central role in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Iraq.

4. The ASEAN Leaders focused their discussions on the acceleration of ASEAN integration and the narrowing of the development gap within ASEAN and between ASEAN and other countries by calling on the Dialogue Partners to support the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), the Vientiane Declaration on the establishment of a Development Triangle among Cambodia, Lao and Vietnam, and the Vientiane Declaration on Enhancing Economic Cooperation and Integration among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam as well as the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI).

5. The ASEAN Leaders reaffirmed the importance of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), as a Code of Conduct governing relations between countries in the region for the promotion of regional peace and stability and welcomed the accession to the TAC by the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, and called on other non-Southeast Asian countries to consider acceding to the Treaty.

6. The ASEAN Leaders signed the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), a six-year plan (2004-2010), which is the successor to the Hanoi Plan of Action. The VAP is aimed at accelerating the integration of ASEAN and narrowing the development gap within ASEAN. The implementation of the VAP will lead to the realization of the goals set in the ASEAN Vision 2020 and the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II, which is the establishment of an ASEAN Community comprising 3 pillars, namely an ASEAN Security Community, an ASEAN Economic Community and an ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in 2020. This will move ASEAN forward towards shared prosperity and destiny in an integrated, peaceful and caring community.

7. To provide synergies for the fruitful implementation of the VAP as well as plans of action or programmes in the future, the ASEAN Leaders agreed to establish an ASEAN Development Fund (ADF), which is a new decision made at the Summit.

8. The ASEAN Leaders also signed the ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors, aimed at turning ASEAN into a single market and production base so as to progress towards the establishment of ASEAN Economic Community in 2020 as set forth in the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II.

9. In addition, to implement the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II, the ASEAN Leaders adopted Plans of Action of ASEAN Security Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

10. The ASEAN Leaders also adopted the ASEAN Joint Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children.

11. The ASEAN Leaders reaffirmed the importance of regional integration and the narrowing of the development gap within ASEAN, and welcomed progress made in the implementation of IAI and the Roadmap for the integration of ASEAN over the past year.

12. The ASEAN Leaders also took note of the outcomes of the Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam (CLMV) Summit and Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam (CLV) Summit.

13. The ASEAN Leaders noted progress made in the implementation of initiatives and projects under the cooperation framework between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners.

14. The ASEAN Leaders agreed to convene an East Asia Summit (EAS) in Malaysia in 2005, and tasked their ASEAN Foreign Ministers and Senior Officials to work out the details relating to the Summit and the question of participation.

15. The ASEAN Leaders also agreed to convene the Second ASEAN-UN Summit in New York in 2005 during the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly.

16. The ASEAN Leaders took note of a report by the ASEAN Business Advisory Council.

II. ASEAN+3 Summit

17. The Summit exchanged views on a number of regional and international political and economic issues, particularly on the challenges facing the region and the world, such as recent developments on terrorism, the Korean Peninsular, the situation in Iraq and the Middle East as well as the outbreak of avian flu.

18. The ASEAN+3 Leaders welcomed the accession to the TAC by the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Russian Federation on the occasion of this Summit.

19. The hike in oil prices has brought about an adverse impact on economies of the region. Therefore, the ASEAN+3 Leaders agreed to support energy cooperation in particular alternative energy such as biofuels and hydroelectric power. In addition, they noted the outcomes of the 1st ASEAN+3 Energy Ministers Meeting, held in June 2004 in the Philippines.

20. The ASEAN+3 Leaders expressed their satisfaction with the overall progress of the ASEAN+3 cooperation and agreed to further implement the short-term and long-term measures of the East Asia Study Group (EASG), that they had adopted in 2002.

21. The ASEAN+3 Leaders noted that the establishment of an East Asia Community is a long-term objective. In addition, they noted that there is a need to develop an Asian Bond Market and to prevent the outbreak of emerging diseases through new mechanisms such as the setting up of "Outbreak Response Teams."

22. The ASEAN+3 Leaders exchanged views on the establishment of an East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) and welcomed the decision by the ASEAN+3 Economic Ministers to set up an expert group to conduct a feasibility study on EAFTA.

23. To mark the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN+3 relations in 2007, the ASEAN+3 Leaders agreed to consider the idea of issuing the second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation, as well as a work plan to consolidate the existing and further cooperation.

24. The Plus Three countries Leaders welcomed the endorsement of the VAP and expressed their support to ASEAN in implementing activities and projects in support of the VAP.

25. Furthermore, the Leaders of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea welcomed the CLMV and CLV Summits, and expressed their support to the implementation of the Vientiane Declaration on Enhancing Economic Cooperation and Integration among Cambodia, Laos Myanmar and Vietnam, and the Vientiane Declaration on the Establishment of the Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam Development Triangle. The ASEAN Leaders expressed their appreciation to China, Japan and ROK for their assistance in implementing projects under the IAI Work Plan.

III. ASEAN+China Summit

26. The ASEAN Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the One China Policy and believed that maintaining peace and stability across Taiwan Straits conforms to the common aspiration of all countries in the region.

27. China commended ASEAN for the signing of the VAP as well as the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Integration of Priority Sectors and the Protocols, and expressed its support to the implementation of the VAP, which will contribute to the realization of the goals set in the ASEAN Vision 2020 and the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II. The Leaders of ASEAN and China adopted the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration of the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and China on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity.

28. The Leaders of ASEAN and China welcomed the signing of the Agreement of Trade in Goods and Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and China.

29. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed China's intention to contribute another US$5 million dollars to the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund in 2005.

30. China reaffirmed its commitment to further strengthen the cooperation with ASEAN in the five priority areas, namely agriculture, information and communication technology (ICT), human resource development (HRD), Mekong Basin development and mutual investment and cooperate in other areas such as SMEs, public health, science and technology as well as quality supervision, inspection, and quarantine inspection. China reiterated its continued support for ASEAN's integration through various development initiatives such as the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC), Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), and Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS).

31. The Leaders of ASEAN and China expressed support for Asia's turn to assume the position of United Nations Secretary-General. In this regard, China was pleased to be informed of ASEAN's endorsement of the candidature of H.E. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, for this position.

IV. ASEAN+Japan Summit

32. The ASEAN and Japan Leaders adopted the ASEAN-Japan Joint Declaration for Cooperation in the Fight Against International Terrorism, and noted with satisfaction the Executive Report on the Progress made in Implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Plan of Action adopted at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit held in Tokyo in December 2003.

33. The ASEAN Leaders expressed their appreciation to Japan for its support for the VAP and its assistance in ASEAN's integration through various ASEAN initiatives and projects, namely IAI, Mekong Basin Development, East-West Corridor and others. Japan welcomed the CLMV and the CLV Summits and expressed its support to the implementation of the Vientiane Declaration on Enhancing Economic Cooperation and Integration among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, and the Vientiane Declaration on the Establishment of the Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam Development Triangle.

34. The ASEAN and Japan Leaders exchanged views on UN reform, in particular, the reform of the Security Council.

35. The Leaders of ASEAN and Japan noted the progress on the implementation of the Framework for Comprehensive Economic Partnership (CEP) between ASEAN and Japan signed last year, and agreed that ASEAN-Japan CEP Agreement Negotiation should commence in 2005.

V. ASEAN+ROK Summit

36. The ASEAN and ROK Leaders signed the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Economic Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asia Nations and the Republic of Korea. This document charts the future direction for cooperation and provides a basis for Free Trade Area Negotiation between ASEAN and ROK.

37. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the ROK's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) on 27 November 2004.

38. The ASEAN Leaders expressed their high appreciation for the ROK's decision to increase its contribution to the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund.

VI. ASEAN+India Summit

39. The ASEAN and India Leaders exchanged views on international and regional issues, especially terrorism, the situation in the Middle East and Iraq, the Korean Peninsular, and UN reform.

40. The ASEAN and India Leaders signed the document on ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity, and adopted a Plan of Action for the implementation of this Partnership.

41. The ASEAN and India Leaders agreed to carry out cooperation in the sectors of trade, investment, services, health, information technology, human resource development and bio-energy.

42. The ASEAN and India Leaders witnessed the ASEAN-India Car Rally Flag- off, aimed at promoting ASEAN-India relations and connectivity.

VII. ASEAN+Australia and New Zealand Commemorative Summit

43. The Leaders of ASEAN and Australia and New Zealand held discussions on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

44. They signed a Joint Declaration of the ASEAN-Australia and New Zealand Commemorative Summit. This landmark document provides a basis for further intensifying and expanding cooperation between ASEAN and Australia and New Zealand for the interests of their peoples and for peace, stability, sustained development and prosperity in the region.

45. The ASEAN Leaders urged Australia and New Zealand to accede to the TAC.